

# AUDUBON MAGAZINE

*The Season*

Formerly BIRD-LORE

199



SECTION II

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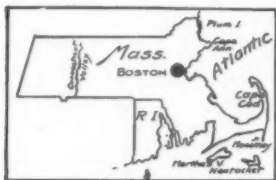


## The Season

CL. April 1, 1944 to  
May 15, 1944



**BOSTON REGION** April was cold, with scarcely any really warm days, and the second half was rainy. The vegetation



was about ten days behind on May 2. There was only one really marked flight the

entire month on April 30, one party recording 96 species north of Boston. Certain winter residents lingered quite late, notably harlequin duck (May 4), northern horned lark (April 29), golden-crowned kinglet (early May), pine grosbeak (April 15) and redpoll (April 25).

May provided as great an extreme in one direction climatically as it is possible for New England to produce. On May 31 the temperature was over 96° for a record. The month rolled up +189°, the hottest May ever known, and it was the driest in 118 years! Needless to say, the migration of birds showed marked departures from the average, though a "normal" migration is largely an intellectual abstraction.

The sudden arrival of warm weather brought a great wave to eastern Massachusetts on May 4. All the backward April species and the first May contingent came at once, and with them a sprinkling of the *second* May contingent, very early. Observers consequently noted everything from the chipping sparrow to the hummingbird and tanager.

This wave ushered in a period of astounding weather. From May 4-19, every day was warm and clear, with a southwest wind. The birds trickled through in small numbers every day also, to the great disappointment of the observers, who individually missed several possible species

each, and collectively complained of the small numbers of most species. It froze generally on May 19, there was a frost on May 20, disastrous to the apple orchards and early Victory gardens. The young leaves on the later oaks and many shrubs were killed and blackened as much as twenty feet above the ground; in combination with the drought this resulted in the death of a good many. The return of warm weather brought a flight on May 22, and intense heat left hardly a single transient in the state by May 26. To my great astonishment a great wave hit the coast on May 27, followed by another on May 28, but there was no sign of this in central and western Massachusetts. Those so fortunate as to be afield saw a truly remarkable number of late flycatchers and certain late warblers; examples will be given.

**Horned Grebe**—Great flight in early April; 300 on April 9 at Manchester (Burnett) for instance.

**Hérons**—Remarkably few great blues reported. Records for all three southern herons.

**Geese**—Best spring flight of brant in many years. An excellent Canada goose flight in Massachusetts, but Dr. Gross reports a poor concentration in Merrymeeting Bay, Maine.

**Ducks**—For several years now the number of fresh water and pond ducks has been steadily decreasing, particularly the two teal and the ring-neck. This year even the black duck fell off sharply in numbers on migration. The wood duck showed no loss over last year.

**Hawks**—Good numbers on the whole. April 27 was the best day over Mt. Tom with 1300 broad-wings. There was a fine coastal flight on April 30; we recorded nine species, including the unprecedented number of 47 pigeon hawks, one every

three minutes for two hours over Plum Island.

**Shore Birds**—Increase of woodcock and a fair flight of Wilson's snipe. The greatest spring flight of the other species ever recorded. I personally saw 26. Twenty years ago one could not have hoped to see so many in the fall. A marbled godwit at Revere is the first spring record for New England in the historic period. A western willet at Monomoy May 30 still in winter plumage is the second. On May 17 and 27 there were at least 1000 black-bellied plover in Newburyport Harbor. At Monomoy 1000 turnstones on May 20, and 2500 on May 30. On the latter date at least 25,000 peep and sanderling.

**Gulls**—Unusual numbers of ring-billed gulls, a species steadily increasing in New England. The immature little gull of Europe remained at Newburyport until June 4, by which date it was beginning to acquire a partial hood.

**Land Birds**—The white-throated sparrow will illustrate the poor May migration counts; I saw a total of only 71 individuals, several hundred being the average. Flocks of migrating swallows were remarkably scarce, and the few remaining colonies of purple martins disappeared or were sharply reduced. The ruby-crowned kinglet and black-throated blue warbler were exceptionally numerous; I saw 66 and 103 respectively, my highest counts. The two late May waves enabled me to score 6 mourning warblers, 18 yellow-bellied flycatchers and 4 olive-sided flycatchers. Other observers found 2 Philadelphia vireos.

Southern species reported near Boston—orchard oriole, a real invasion; white-eyed vireo (1); chat (2); hooded warbler (1); gnatcatcher (3).

**Rarities**—Yellow-billed tropic-bird, one picked up alive April 25 at Harwichport, first Massachusetts record. European teal, drake at Wayland, April 16 (Hill). Curlew sandpiper at Newburyport, May 12 (Griscom, Curtis, Emerson, Hill). Cardinal, pair at Edgartown still present, one in Cambridge (Mrs. Sampson), first record in 39 years. LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.*

**NEW YORK REGION** The month of April was cool and wet. With the exception of a few days early in the month,



nearly every day thereafter showed average temperatures below normal. Precipitation

exceeded normal by almost two inches, some rain falling on eighteen days of the month and on April 5 snow fell to a depth of five inches in the city and up to twelve inches in the suburbs. The prevailing winds were northwest. In contrast with this the first fifteen days of May were unusually and uniformly warm, on twelve of these days the average temperature was well above normal, often from ten to fifteen degrees. Precipitation was light and the prevailing south and southwest winds were gentle. These mild and equable conditions were not particularly conducive to any marked peaks in the migratory movements of the birds. Field reports seem to confirm this.

From most sections of the region observers report little evidence of pronounced migration waves and the impression is that the migrants streamed through steadily and very quickly. In northern New Jersey a light wave occurred on April 29 and another on May 12 (Lang), but Long Island reported migrants scarce and no perceptible waves up to the end of this period (Elliott). At Central Park in New York City, however, what is reported as a heavy wave occurred on May 1, with white-throated sparrows and towhees, particularly numerous. Minor waves noted on May 3, 5 and 9, alternating with days when transients were very scarce. A second major wave came in on May 12 followed by a drop to almost nothing on May 13 (J. T. Nichols). This seems to indicate two things—first, that migratory movements may be magnified in this oasis in the heart of a large city and second, even in the park, the migrants did not linger but were gone within a day.

Spring duck flight has been about normal. At Atlantic Beach, L. I., 110 snow geese were reported on April 2 (Rose, *et al.*). More blue-winged teal than usual but wood duck is becoming scarce. They are absent from many localities where they usually have nested. Ring-necks are in-

creasing. Observations of the changing ratio of male to female of these ducks were made at Hopper's Pond, N. J., which showed a variation of from 119 males to 17 females on April 1 to a ratio of 1 female to each male on April 28, the total number of males decreasing and of females increasing throughout the month.

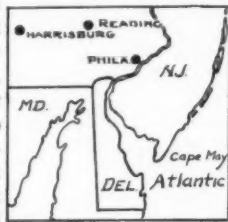
Hawk flight about normal but broad-wings were a week late and best flights were on April 25, 26 and 29. On April 26, 100+ broad-wings were seen at Ridgewood, N. J. Fifty ospreys came in at Orient, L. I., on the night of April 1. A golden eagle noted on April 2 at Montclair, N. J. (Honaman). A late record for a saw-whet owl was made at Ridgewood, N. J., on April 30 (C. K. Nichols).

Prairie horned larks continue to increase as breeders in northern New Jersey, four new nesting localities found in the Newark area and another near Hackensack, probably the first nesting of this bird to be reported in Bergen County. Prothonotary warblers in greater numbers than usual and reported from Teaneck, N. J., April 30 (Connor, Nightingale), Dover, N. J., May 9 (Hedden), Prospect Park, Brooklyn, May 3 (Grant, Nathan) and Hempstead, L. I., same day (Rose). A very early parula warbler at Huntington, L. I., on April 1 (McKeevers).

Evening grosbeaks wintered in unusual numbers at several localities throughout the region and established new records by tarrying late into the spring. Most of the flocks that were being regularly watched maintained their numbers until about the first of April and then started to decrease slowly throughout the month. The last remnants of the Boonton, N. J., flock were seen on May 9 (Mrs. Pitcher) and of those at Bound Brook, N. J., which numbered 40 on April 8, only 2 were present on May 10 and they were not seen after that date (Conn). *Rarities*—A very interesting record was made on May 14 at Pleasant Plains, Staten Island, when 4 glossy ibis were reported (Cleaves, Chapin, Vaurie). These birds, all of them in adult plumage, were under observation for over an hour and were followed from point to point as they moved about the locality. Another rare occurrence was a chestnut-collared longspur at Dyker Heights, L. I., on April 27 (Grant, *et al*). The bird was very tame and the detailed notes of the plumage taken at the time

seem to leave no doubt of the validity of the record.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

**PHILADELPHIA REGION** Over four inches of rainfall for April was somewhat above average. Clear days were the exception. The wind blew almost continuously from the east. The weather from May 1 to May 15 was perfect. Quiet moonlight nights provided excellent conditions for migration.



In late March and early April woodcock flight was good. The high count was seven singing at one time at Woodbury Heights, N. J., March 24 (Manners). Red-breasted nuthatches and ruby-crowned kinglets were reported in unusual numbers during the last week in April and the first part of May.

**MIGRATION**—During the first two weeks of May, the land-bird migration for the most part was very unsatisfactory. No big waves occurred. Few unusual or semi-rare warblers were reported. On the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club "Roundup," May 14, 173 species were counted, 25 of these were warblers. Many common birds were not present or were few in number. No unusual species of warblers were observed. In contrast to the Philadelphia area, a count taken at State College, Pa., on the same date by John Gillespie, included 8 bay-breasted, 6 Cape May, several Tennessee and many blackburnian warblers and the usual number of common migrants. Did the persistent easterly winds during the month of April force the main flight of migrant land birds farther west than the Philadelphia area?

**WATER BIRDS**—There were thousands of migrating shore birds on the coastal marshes of New Jersey, May 14. In numbers the dowitcher led, followed by the semipalmated sandpiper, red-backed sandpiper, knot and Hudsonian curlew in the order mentioned. Late in the evening at Stone Harbor, N. J., on the above date, the air over the salt marshes fairly hummed and vibrated with

the calls of shore birds, cries of laughing gulls and the clatter of clapper rails. Reports indicate that the resident killdeer population is perhaps 50 per cent below normal.

**BEHAVIOR**—Three reports of purple grackles pouncing upon and killing fledgling English sparrows have been sent in. These killings seem to occur near feeding stations to which the unsuspecting young ones, begging for food, followed the parents. After killing the sparrows, the grackles systematically tear them apart, eating the head first.

**OTHER RECORDS OF INTEREST**—Springton Reservoir, Delaware County, Pa., April 23, Holboell's grebe, 2 (Culver); near Medford, N. J., May 11, yellow-throated warbler, 1, singing (Manners); Beach Haven, N. J., May 14, red-headed woodpecker 1 (Q. Kramer); Forty Fort, Pa., evening grosbeak, first observed November 28, 1943—last seen May 7, 1944 (Tracy). — **JULIAN K. POTTER**, *Collingswood, N. J.*

**CAROLINA REGION COASTAL SECTION**—Temperature (at Charleston) near normal; rainfall 2.24 inches over



normal in April, but May dry,  $\frac{1}{4}$  normal. **MIGRATION AND POPULATION**—*Among departing winter visitors:* April 2, influx of red-eyed towhees; 7th, 4 shovellers; 21st, 5 buffle-heads and 2 marsh hawks; 30th, 25 coots, 4 red-breasted mergansers, 6 blacks, 10 scaups (large flocks absent from Refuge this spring, but present in Charleston Harbor—reverse of usual status); 26th (normal) Huger, myrtle warbler; 27th (normal) Huger, swamp sparrow; 30th, Charleston, robin, few days late. *Among transients:* 30th, yellow warbler and several hundred bobolinks, due to remain to mid-May; unusual (8th coastal record); 24th, Johns Island, 2 Baltimore orioles (McCain). *Summer arrivals:* April 2 (normal) Romain, 2 least and 3 royal terns; 3rd (4/11/43) Charleston, summer tanager (Bellows) and (normal) large flock of skimmers (Lunz); 4th (due end of March) hooded warbler (Bischoff);

5th (few days early) orchard oriole (Barrington); 8th (normal) Romain, Wilson's plover; 9th, kingbird (4/10/42) and crested flycatcher (4/12/43); 11th (4/18/43) male nonpareil—no female until 4/26 (Swope); 13th (4/10/41) yellow-billed cuckoo (Swope); 16th (late) Huger, 20 migrant anhingas (Dingle). (Too late for last report is Peterson's record, March 27 of 16 anhingas—largest number ever noted on Bull's Island); 17th (4/27/43) indigo bunting (Bischoff); 17th, Pawley's Island, Georgetown County, 800+ white ibis (Green) milling about in bad weather—our farthest north for so many; 20th (normal) prothonotary warbler (Dingle); 26th, Acadian flycatcher (Dingle); 29th (due early April) near McClellanville, 2 swallow-tailed kites in mating (?) evolutions (A. Rutledge); 30th (normal) Huger, Mississippi kite (Dingle).

**NESTING**—April 9, loggerhead shrike carrying food, hummingbird and chickadee building; 20th, Romain (Baldwin) 300 adult pelicans and over 150 nests (about 50 with 1-2 eggs, balance incomplete or yet unused—on 23rd 2 nests had 4 eggs each); 23rd, oyster-catcher's nest, 3 eggs; 26th, 2 turkey's nests (1/6 and 1/13); 29th, 9 willet's nests (2/1, 3/2 and 4/4).

**CASUAL**—May 12, Charleston, frigate bird seen high over city (Lunz).

**INLAND SECTION**—Columbia, temperature about normal for period; rainfall, April, 1.40 above, May 1-15, normal; Raleigh, April, temperature below, May 1-15, normal; rainfall, April, 2.00 above, May 1-15, normal.

**MIGRATION**—Dates about normal, but blue grosbeak, Columbia (Mrs. Charles) April 9, earliest South Carolina record by a week; wood thrush, Raleigh, April 5, earliest date for locality; last juncos late, Columbia, April 16, Raleigh, 23rd, Henderson (Mrs. Bachman) 29th. Swifts, Raleigh, April 2, Columbia, 15th, Henderson 17th, difference due to first birds not stopping to breed, so if first are missed, date is thrown late; Henderson, Baltimore oriole, April 25, 29, rose-breasted grosbeak, 26th, two males.

**Abundance**—Warblers and other migrants fewer in species and individuals than usual, but New London (Trott) had Cape May warblers numerous April 22 to May 5 and Henderson 18 species on the 29th. Red-breasted nuthatches and sis-



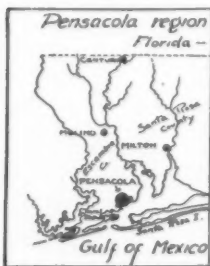
kins unusually common in North Carolina to end of April, last of both, Raleigh, May 7.

**NESTING**—Columbia, cardinal's eggs, April 5; brown thrasher, 7th; orchard oriole building, 26th; catbird's eggs and wood thrush sitting, May 1; grackles left nest, May 3. Henderson, redstart on nest April 29, another, May 20; Raleigh, orchard oriole's nests, May 7, 14.

**RARITIES**—Clapper rail April 21, found dead; greater scaup duck, Henderson, April 29—May 11, both first inland records; adult bald eagle, Raleigh, May 7; Florida gallinule, Salisbury (Miss Knox) May 13, found dead.

**MOUNTAIN SECTION**—Arden (Mrs. Grinnell) first white-eyed vireo, April 3, wood thrush, whip-poor-will, 10th, ovenbird, 12th, wood pewee, 21st, crested flycatcher, 24th, scarlet tanager, 25th, hummingbird, May 2, a rose-breasted grosbeak, May 5, many last year. Warblers less common than last year but 16 species seen on May 6-7. Last juncos on April 21. —C. S. BRIMLEY, N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.; E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.

**PENSACOLA (FLA.) REGION** Normal temperatures for whole of April were followed by cool weather in first half of May.



Rainfall: April, 400 per cent of normal; May slightly subnormal. Recurring spells of northerly winds or of heavy rains, either condition sufficient to halt trans-Gulf migrants at the coastline — April 3-6, north wind; April 13-16, rain; April 18-20, rain; April 23-25, rain; May 5-7, north wind and rain.

**MIGRATION** — Because of adverse weather, 2 or 3 days' successive incoming flights of birds banked up in the coastal areas during each of the spells cited above, producing the most amazing abundance and variety of migrants I have ever seen. Scarlet tanager and indigo bunting, usually uncommon, were abundant; rose-breasted and blue grosbeaks and redstart, usually rare, were common on several

days; painted bunting, always rare and sometimes absent, occurred several times in small groups, once as many as 6 birds; extreme rarities of this region—cerulean, Blackburnian and black-poll warblers, Baltimore oriole, gray-cheeked thrush and cliff swallow—appeared, some of them on several occasions; and warbling vireo (2 birds on May 7) was an addition to my "life list."

**Arrival dates**—April 1, yellow-billed cuckoo (K. R. Tanner—earliest ever recorded by 2 days); 2nd, crested flycatcher; 4th, ovenbird; 7th, indigo bunting (Mrs. A. L. Whigham), chuck-will's-widow, nighthawk and barn swallow; 12th, spotted sandpiper (Tanner, Miss L. Pate); 14th, blue grosbeak (Mrs. Whigham); 15th, rose-breasted grosbeak (Mrs. J. F. Wernicke—earliest ever recorded by 3 days), veery (equals previous earliest date), cerulean warbler, redstart, scarlet tanager and painted bunting 16th, least and Cabot's terns, and worm-eating, yellow and black-poll warblers; 19th, olive-backed thrush; 21st, Acadian flycatcher (Mrs. Whigham); 23rd, purple gallinule; 24th, Tennessee warbler (A. C. Sheppard) and magnolia warbler (very rare in spring—earliest ever recorded by 3 days); 26th, bobolink (Sheppard, Tanner) and gray kingbird (equals previous earliest date); 30th, Mississippi kite; May 7, cliff swallow (Mrs. Whigham), gray-cheeked thrush, warbling vireo, Blackburnian warbler and Baltimore oriole.

**Departure dates**—April 1, horned grebe in full nuptial plumage (Tanner); 2nd, phoebe; 9th, marsh hawk and field sparrow; 16th, hermit thrush and blue-headed vireo (both very late); 22nd, goldfinch (Mrs. Whigham); 23rd, purple finch (Mrs. Whigham) and shoveller (latest ever recorded by 10 days); 27th, ruby-crowned kinglet (Sheppard) and Bonaparte's gull; 28th, ovenbird and swamp sparrow (both by Sheppard); 30th, veery (Mrs. Whigham); May 1, myrtle warbler (Mrs. Whigham); 7th, catbird, olive-backed thrush, black and white, yellow, magnolia and black-throated green warblers, redstart, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak and painted bunting (black-throated green and bunting were the latest ever recorded by 6 and 5 days respectively); 9th, white-throated sparrow (Mrs. Whigham); 13th, lesser scaup; 14th, common loon, double-crested cormorant,

red-breasted merganser, solitary sandpiper, lesser yellow-legs and bobolink. April 23, flock of 200 blue-winged teal was large for so late in the season; small groups seen to end of period.

**POPULATION**—Lesser yellow-legs inexplicably rare both on beaches and in upland ponds all spring, although rains had made upland conditions unusually favorable, as evidenced by good showing of solitary sandpipers.

**NESTING**—April 16, blue-gray gnat-catcher completing nest 30th, Carolina wren nest and 5 eggs in old paint can on ground and tufted titmouse feeding well-grown young in nest box; May 6, Carolina wren eggs hatching in nest on rafters of cottage (Miss Pate); 13th, the only nest of pied-billed grebe I have ever heard of in all northwestern Florida found in temporary roadside rainwater pond.

**ACCIDENTALS**—April 1 and 3, red-heads of preceding period still present (Tanner); 7th, pigeon hawk (very rare in spring, regular in fall); 15th and 16th, 2 or 3 man-o-war birds each day (of casual occurrence at any time of year, but rarest in spring).—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, Fla.

**OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION** Although without severe storms or cold, April, until near the end, was cloudy, wet and



chilly. Then, warm, pleasant weather brought vegetation along rapidly and many people commented that well-developed foliage interfered more than usual with warbler observations. High lake and stream

levels continued, as for the year past, to cover many of the beaches and mud flats where customarily shore birds are found.

**MIGRATION AND POPULATION**—The movement of ducks in April was rapid, and few people saw as many as usual, although probably this should not be taken as an indication that water birds were fewer than in previous years. As dur-

ing last fall, an abundance of standing water in inland locations caused the flights to spread over the countryside, instead of concentrating in the lakes and larger streams as they do in drier years. Whistling swans, for example, were reported from a number of locations in southern Michigan (Douglass) where they are seen infrequently. It is interesting to note that in mid-May a mute swan, wild and quite wary, paused on the Miami River at Dayton (Bertram Smith).

American egrets seen this spring at Dayton and Toledo arrive in small numbers almost every April. But no nests have been reported here. It seems likely that sooner or later the egret will be found nesting in this region, perhaps at West Sister Island, near the western end of Lake Erie, where the largest heronry in this area is located.

This was a poor spring for shore birds, except in one area near Toledo, where on a flooded golf course adjacent to Lake Erie, ten or more species totalling hundreds of individuals could be seen any time after May 1. However, except for a single Wilson's phalarope on May 13, no unusual birds appeared. Most interesting event at this location was the occurrence of 300 ruddy turnstones at one time, a remarkable number in this region.

The first wave of warblers arrived a few days earlier than usual in northern Ohio. For example, at Toledo, where we saw only 3 warblers April 29, 17 species were present April 30, along with the black-billed cuckoo, hummingbird, 2 flycatchers and 2 vireos. We have to go back to 1933 to match this record for early arrivals. Thereafter, no marked waves were apparent. But several observers have commented about the consistently high numbers of Tennessee warblers this spring.

Here are a few notes of interest in southern Michigan. In the first week of May, more than one person noticed an exceptional flight of blue jays (Van Tyne). A Baltimore oriole arrived at Ann Arbor at the early date of April 1 (Case). Although redpolls still were not reported in most districts, a flock of 75 was seen near Battle Creek on April 6 (Peterson).

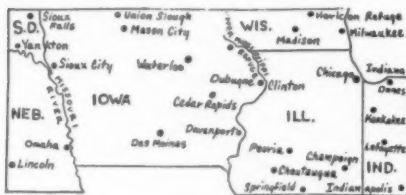
Notes on breeding birds are not numerous, but two that deserve mention are as follows: A sandhill crane was building a nest in Calhoun County, southern Michigan, April 19 (Walkinshaw). A

robin's nest at Dayton contained 7 eggs when one was broken and the bird abandoned it.

**RARITIES**—During this period, a new bird was added to the Michigan State list when a Bachman's sparrow was seen in the southeastern corner of the state, near Toledo, on April 29 (Campbell, Mayfield).

The white-eyed vireo, which has been seen only a few times in the state, visited Ann Arbor on May 7 (Hann). Trautman at South Bass Island, Ohio, in Lake Erie, reports the yellow-palm warbler and the yellow rail, the latter found dead. An upland plover near Oxford, Ohio, April 25, was quite unusual in that neighborhood (Mattox). Cook of Youngstown, Ohio, sends in the following items of local interest: old squaw, April 23 (Minich); summer tanager, May 2, the second on record in the locality (Stafford); and Kentucky warbler, May 1, (Leedy).—**HAROLD MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.**

**MIDDLE-WESTERN REGION** April was cold and rainy with precipitation 75 per cent above normal. A hard freeze on



May 5 and 6 in central Iowa, with temperatures as low as 23 and frost elsewhere in the region, changed abruptly from winter to summer in one week. Critical floods on the Mississippi and Missouri River watersheds occurred in May.

**Pelicans and Cormorants**—Fifteen white pelicans along Mississippi River at Quincy, Ill., were the first seen in several years by Musselman. Bradley estimated that the 1000 double-crested cormorants on Chautauqua Refuge, Ill., represented a decrease of 80 per cent from last year. First flock of 75 was seen April 6, with a peak of 400 on the 12th. A 20 per cent increase in these birds was noted at Sioux City, Iowa (Zell).

**Herons, etc.**—Great blue herons nested (at least 12 pairs) on Chautauqua Refuge (Bradley) for the first time. Three Ameri-

can egrets were seen there April 12; one near Hannibal, Mo., on March 21, becoming "very common" by April 10, (Adams), while a single bird was observed on the Upper Mississippi Refuge (Steele) near Winona, Minn., April 20—their earliest record. No report was received from Sabula, Iowa, where about 125 pairs nested last season, although Musselman, who reported these birds returning by the thousands at Quincy, Ill., beginning April 28, predicted heavy nesting in his area. Mrs. Barlow noted a single bird at Waterloo, Iowa.

**Swans**—Beed reported more whistling swans on Horicon Marsh, Wis., than local observers could remember. Eight arrived March 8; peak of 400 on April 7; while 2 remained April 12. A total of 700 birds estimated using the area fed in partially-flooded fields. A single bird at Chicago on April 11 and 14 was seen by Mrs. Baldwin and other Chicago Ornithological Society members.

**Geese**—A flight of Canada geese through the Horicon Refuge (Beed), estimated at 25,000 birds, was the best in years. It began March 11, with a peak of 10,000 on April 11. This may account for a 10 per cent drop in Canada geese along the Mississippi River (Steele) where a maximum of 2500 was noted. Leopold and McCabe considered the Canada goose flight at Madison, Wis., poor with 297 seen in 14 days as against 579 in 14 days in 1943; peak of flight was April 8—last year, April 12. A 40 per cent increase was noted in white-fronted geese at Sioux City, Iowa, and about 25 per cent more blue and snow geese (Zell).

**Waterfowl**—Irving W. Burr at Purdue University, reported a very good duck migration with a peak of 15 species at Lafayette, Ind., April 1. Baldpates, ring-necked ducks and scaup each exceeded 100 birds. Bradley had a 9 per cent reduction in waterfowl at the Chautauqua Refuge, Ill., due to high waters. Gadwalls, canvas-backs, and buffle-heads departed on April 6; green-winged teal and shovellers on the 12th; and golden-eyes on the 21st. Both Adams and Musselman found canvas-backs abundant on the Mississippi River; the latter reported them more numerous than in 20 years, settling in rafts of thousands, beginning March 23. At Madison, Wis., Leopold and McCabe noted a good flight of diving ducks but



few puddlers. Beed found the opposite, with few diving ducks and the canvas-back, redhead and ruddy duck as scarce. The redhead was scarce throughout the region with the mallard, pintail and scaup generally the most abundant. A peak of 584 red-breasted mergansers reached Indianapolis, Ind., on April 9, but passed quickly with 3 only on the 15th (Campbell).

*Hawks*—Generally scarce. Leopold and McCabe, in 9 days of April at Madison, Wis., saw 15 marsh hawks, 4 buteos, no accipiters, as against 6 marsh hawks, 3 buteos, and 1 accipiter in 14 days of April 1943. Hawks were scarce at Sioux City, Iowa and Lafayette, Ind., while Cedar Rapids, Iowa, considered the migration normal. The latter reported a Swainson's hawk April 29. An American rough-leg on April 14 at Chicago (Baldwin) is rather late. Bradley noted the last of the 19 bald-headed eagles, that wintered on the Chautauqua Refuge, on April 21, and Musselman found the wintering birds—which varied from 6 to 18 birds—gone from Keokuk Dam, Iowa, by the end of March.

*Shore Birds*—Scarce due to high waters. Wilson's snipes were noted on the Horicon Marsh and at Chicago while woodcocks were also seen there by Mrs. Baldwin and 4 on April 2 at Indianapolis (Campbell). Mrs. Baldwin found 2 black-bellied plovers at Chicago on April 29. Musselman reported the first golden plovers he had seen in 25 years at Quincy, Ill.; 35 or 40 birds seen on April 20, also a flock of at least 50, and another of 23. Upland plovers were noted in slightly increased numbers throughout the regions, arriving April 12 at Quincy, April 27 on the Horicon Marsh, and April 29 in Chicago.

*Flycatchers*—Two crested flycatchers were at Indianapolis on April 15 (Campbell). An Arkansas kingbird was seen at Beach, near Waukegan, Ill., by many Chicago Ornithological Society observers, on May 14, in exactly the same place where one was found in 1943.

*Vireos*—Musselman found the red-eyed, warbling, yellow-throated, Bell's, and Philadelphia at Quincy on May 11. The white-eyed was in Chicago (Baldwin) on the 7th, while the blue-headed and Philadelphia were still at Evanston (DuMont) May 21.

*Warblers*—No pronounced waves, and

considered scarce in all localities due undoubtedly to the frequent rains in early May. Early arrivals were 3 myrtle warblers on March 26 at Indianapolis (Campbell), a single northern water-thrush on April 2 in Evanston, Ill., (DuMont), and a Louisiana water-thrush at Quincy on April 19. Prothonotary warblers were noted on April 28 at Quincy (Musselman), the 29th in Chicago (Baldwin), May 6 in Indianapolis (Campbell), the 7th by the Evanston Bird Club, the 11th at Horicon Marsh (Beed), and at Waterloo, Iowa, (Barlow). The latter reported all warblers except the myrtle, western palm and magnolia as scarce; all observers agreed that these three were the most abundant. The utter lack of black-polls was general. Cerulean warblers were seen in Indianapolis and at Horicon Refuge May 6, and in Chicago May 11 (Dreuth). One hooded warbler seen at Chicago on May 2 (Baldwin).

*Yellow-headed Blackbirds*—Seen as far east as Chicago on May 7 (Baldwin) and Horicon Marsh on May 4. A flock of about 50 was seen by Prof. Terrell at Quincy, Ill., May 13 for their first recent local record. These birds were entirely absent at Sioux City (Zell) a locality well within their normal range.

*Sparrows*—White-throat and white-crown were generally scarce, although Dreuth noted the latter in Lincoln Park, Chicago, from May 1 to 15 with a maximum of 40 on May 12. Laconte's and lark sparrows reached Quincy on April 28 and 30 respectively. Two clay-colored sparrows at Des Moines on May 14 (DuMont) were 30 feet up in a maple tree when first seen but finally returned to the ground, as did two Harris's sparrows seen under the same conditions.

*Records of Interest*—Yellow-billed cuckoo on May 1 was early; golden-crowned kinglet on May 2 was late, both at Chicago (Baldwin). Sapsuckers and blue-gray gnatcatchers were unusually numerous and mockingbirds were seen in several localities and as far north as Horicon Marsh, Wis. Cliff swallows were reported only from Quincy.

*Rarities*—Two blue grosbeaks at Chicago May 12 (Baldwin); two purple gallinules on Horicon Marsh April 21 were carefully identified by Watson E. Beed and Russell Neugebauer. Musselman reported a magpie seen at Quincy, Ill.,

March 5—the third record in three years.  
—ELLEN THORNE SMITH, *Lake Forest*, and  
PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Evanston, Ill.*

**MISSOURI REGION** April and the first ten days of May were in general cold and cloudy, marked by only occasional warm pleasant days. Frost occurred over the region May 5 with a light snow in the western part of the state. General heavy rains the last



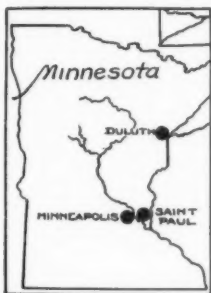
few days of April were followed by severe floods in the Missouri and Mississippi valleys but at a date too early to interfere with nesting birds. Development of vegetation up to May 10 was delayed a week or more. About May 11 an abrupt change in weather occurred. The thermometer rose to 80° and summer temperatures prevailed for the rest of the month.

A greatly reduced number of observers and curtailed activities of those remaining, combined with unfavorable weather conditions, resulted in rather poor birding. Limited observations upon waterfowl in the Kansas City area indicate that ducks passed through in the greatest numbers in several years. About 10,000 ducks, among them 2600 redheads and 2200 baldpates, were seen on the Platte County lakes, April 3. Coots were very abundant and an estimated total of 12,000 was observed on that date. Geese remained in numbers during the first week of April. The white-fronted was rather numerous in the Kansas City area and small numbers were seen as far east as St. Louis. Ducks were about normal around St. Louis but large concentrations on the lakes were not noted, due perhaps to the destruction of marsh vegetation by prolonged submergence during the 1943 floods.

High water covered most of the mud flats and few shore birds were reported. Both species of yellow-legs and spotted and solitary sandpipers were fairly common. A few dowitchers were reported from Kansas City and St. Louis between April 1 and May 14. Wilson's phalaropes were seen at Kansas City on April 30 (Hagaman). Short reports about 2000

golden plovers in St. Charles County, April 1 and the ruddy turnstone on May 14. A flock of 47 white pelicans was observed over Kansas City on April 10 (Werning). American egrets appeared in small numbers in the St. Charles County marshes about April 1 and were still present May 15. Rails and both species of bitterns were occasionally reported between April 20 and May 15. A yellow-crowned night heron was seen in St. Charles County on May 14 (Short, *et al.*). A common tern was observed at Lake Park, Ill., on April 20 and small numbers of Forster's were present during May. The number of migrating ospreys and broad-winged hawks was decidedly below normal; song, swamp, white-throated and savannah sparrows passed through in fair numbers, but great waves were not observed. Fewer Lincoln's and white-crowned sparrows were seen than in 1943. Most flycatchers, swallows, thrushes and warblers appeared on schedule but in small numbers. At Lake Park, Ill., yellow and myrtle warblers were perched or seeking food a few inches above the water on broken-down reeds, during the cold, cloudy days of late April and early May. Some observers in the Kansas City area report that warblers were observed in about 10 per cent of normal numbers. However, the Connecticut and the golden-winged, both quite rare in western Missouri, were observed there. Near St. Louis the yellow, Tennessee, Nashville and myrtle warblers were close to normal. The black-poll and black-throated green were probably more conspicuous than usual. Blue-wings and golden-wings were fairly common. The chestnut-sided warbler, so abundant in 1943, was very scarce this year. Bobolinks were few compared with 1943. Olive-backed and gray-cheeked thrushes were seen in about normal numbers with the gray-cheek probably the more common in the St. Louis area. The characteristic notes of the least flycatcher, ordinarily very common, were seldom heard. The Arkansas kingbird, casual in Missouri, was reported from Kansas City on May 8. Yellow-billed cuckoos were slow in coming and few were observed before May 15. Migrants thinned out rapidly with the beginning of the heat wave, May 11, and few were seen after May 15.—JAMES W. CUNNINGHAM, 4234 Maryland Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

**MINNESOTA REGION** April was a cold, windy, wet month with only 3 or 4 days with morning temperatures above



freezing. Light snow for 11 consecutive days previous to April 3. Ground covered with snow on the 15th, which melted later. Navigation opened at Duluth April 9 after breaking through ice at the Soo. Ice went out

of Lake Minnetonka on April 23, 8 days later than the average. First thunder and lightning storm on April 30. The cold weather continued into May and it was not until the middle of the month that warm, spring-like days appeared. There were several very heavy rain storms that overflowed streams and raised lake levels. There was a light fall of snow and freezing temperatures over most of the state on May 5.

Vegetation was retarded but as usual, under such conditions, the first warm days and nights sent it rushing ahead and by mid-May there was little evidence of the earlier tardiness.

**MIGRATION** — The bird migration was somewhat disordered but most of the early migrants were back nearly on time. Unless otherwise indicated, the following April arrivals are by Mrs. I. A. Lupient of Minneapolis: April 2, song sparrow; 6th, double-crested cormorant (many this spring), martin, lapland longspur (large flock, last), flock of snow geese; 7th, chipping sparrow (average April 16), swamp sparrow (average April 11); 9th, greater yellow-leg (average April 14), horned grebe, winter wren, vesper sparrow (average April 10), fox sparrow, hawk migration; 11th, phoebe, hermit thrush; 12th, tree swallow; 14th, first robin's nest (Breckenridge); 16th, myrtle warbler, white-throated sparrow, first whistling swans (Kilgore); 19th, field sparrow, black-throated green warbler; 23rd, crow's nest, 7 eggs (Breckenridge); 27th, brown thrasher, orange-crowned and pine warblers; 28th, barn swallow, palm warbler, yellow-headed blackbird; 30th, semi-palmated plover, spotted sandpiper, Nashville warbler (Kilgore), Baltimore oriole

(Kilgore), towhee (Kilgore), willet, a flock of 20 seen by Mr. Swedenborg and others at Long Meadow, a very unusual occurrence these days for Minnesota, especially in the eastern part of the state.

The migration for the first half of May was about normal as to species and dates and for most species abundant as to individuals. One field party reported over 120 species for a 24-hour period, May 13-14. Warblers were numerous, particularly the palm. Even the black-throated blue (1 male and 2 females), one of the rarest of our migrants, was reported on May 13 at Glen Lake by Mrs. Suckee.

**ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**—A prothonotary warbler at the Farm School May 14, (Mrs. Wentling); yellow-breasted chat at Minneapolis, May 8 (Mrs. Lupient), at Madison, Lac qui parle County on May 13 (Mrs. Peterson), at the Farm School on May 15 (Mrs. Wentling); completed cardinal's nest, April 8, first egg, April 10 (Wentling). The cardinal, since it moved north, has not yet learned that this is too early to build its nest in Minnesota. A Bewick's wren came to Dr. Breckenridge's place, a few miles north of the city, on April 28, and remained a few days. It is a rare bird in Minnesota. Mr. Ray C. Steele, Superintendent of the Upper Mississippi River Game Refuge at Winona, reported on April 20 an American egret in Wabasha County.

The blue and snow goose flight in the Lake Traverse region was normal this year after being absent last year. The first birds, about 1500, came the first week in April. Swans, pelicans and a few sandhill cranes arrived about the same time.

From Duluth come the following notes by Dr. Lakela: April 8, killdeer; 9th, horned larks, large flocks of redpolls, 9 glaucous gulls; 16th, a flock of several swans in St. Louis River; 17th, song sparrow, sharp-shinned hawk and golden-crowned kinglets, "the ground is still frozen hard and yesterday morning new ice covered the entire bay but melted later;" 30th, 7 swans, brown thrasher myrtle and palm warblers, 4 greater yellow-legs, alder and willow catkins out. From Mrs. Olin of Duluth: April 18, cowbird, Savannah sparrow, marsh hawk and meadowlarks; May 3, a flock of 15 pelicans in Lake Superior. From Mr. H. A. Simonson of Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine County, in western Minnesota:

March 21, robins and killdeer; 22nd, western meadowlark; 23rd many flickers; April 15, robins building; 18th, 2 martins and on the 26th a flock that settled in the house. Mr. Simonson furnishes the dates of arrival of martins from 1931 to 1944 as follows: 1931, April 17; 1932, April 19; 1933, April 23; 1934, no record; 1935, April 20; 1936, May 11; 1937, April 22; 1938, April 21; 1939, April 11; 1940, April 18; 1941, April 11; 1942, April 13; 1943, April 4; 1944, April 18. He adds: "An unusual thing happened last year, 1943. There appeared to be a shortage of males. Two females built a nest together, laid their eggs and incubated about a month but not one egg hatched which seems to prove that when the martins are mated they are true to their mates."

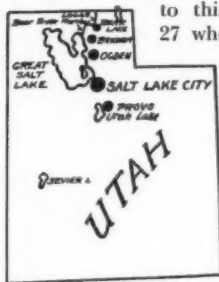
Mr. W. H. Eastman of Minneapolis kindly submitted a detailed account of a trip to Whitefish Lake, Crow Wing County, April 2-9, from which are taken the following items: Little Falls, April 2, a flock of snow buntings; Whitefish Lake, April 5, two starlings, said to be the first seen here; 6th first robin; 7th, killdeer, phoebe, hawk flight, one red-shouldered; 8th, yellow-bellied sapsucker, 6 (first).

From Mrs. C. E. Peterson, Madison, in west central part of state: May 1, season backward, wet, birds slow to arrive. Yellow warblers, many; northern yellow-throat, black and white and orange-crowned warblers, red-eyed towhee, Lincoln's, white-throated and white-crowned sparrows, olive-backed thrush.

The shore-bird migration was disappointing to bird watchers as the high water flooded beaches and mud flats so the birds had to avoid this region. There was a good duck migration, the lesser scaup predominating. Dr. Keating of Rochester, Minnesota, wrote on April 8: "The large number of Canada geese which wintered at Mayowood have gone this week. There were 1800 last Sunday (April 2) and only 100 left today, but their places were taken by a rather large (for our little pond, at any rate) aggregation of ducks of many species. There were more ring-necks than I have seen here before—over 500 mixed with perhaps 1000 bluebills and almost every other common duck."—THOMAS S. ROBERTS, *Director, Minnesota Museum of History, University of Minnesota, Minn.*

**UTAH REGION** The stormy weather of the previous period continued unabated (although slightly moderated) into this one until April 27 when a spring warm-up set in, which gradually raised the daily temperature to 85° by May 15.

This cold April, however, did not seem to materially affect the regular



April-May migrations.

**MIGRATIONS**—Some first reported arrivals and departures—Eared grebes, April 22, a second light year, also same date for red-breasted mergansers, very few observed this year. Snowy egret, April 7 (Bob Selander); white-faced glossy ibis April 15 (L.) common by May 1, 186 on Farmington Bay May 6, 200+ Bear River Refuge May 7 (L.).

Three whistling swans remained on Bear River Refuge until May 10, most swans gone by May 1 (V. Wilson); turkey vulture, April 7 (S.); osprey, Pine View Dam, May 7 (T. A. Dewey); snowy plover, April 22; black-bellied plover, May 7, 200 still present at end of period (Barnes); spotted sandpiper, May 1 (L.); pectoral and Baird's sandpipers, 146 counted on April 22, Farmington Bay (L.); black-necked stilt, April 22; Wilson's phalarope, May 1-2 (S.), 26 on May 6 (L.) at Farmington Bay; Franklin's gull, April 10, Bear River Refuge (W.), May 6, 5 (L.), over 100 present, Ogden Bay (T. A. C.); Bonaparte's gull, April 22 (L.); Forster's tern, 150, April 23 (S.) Decker's Lake; Caspian tern, April 3 (S.), April 23, Bear River Refuge (W.); mourning dove, 10, April 25 (S.); black-chinned hummingbird, 2, May 10; broad-tailed hummingbird, May 7 (David Wilson); Lewis's woodpecker, wintering birds at mouth of Big Cottonwood Creek, still present April 2, when J. Carlos Lambert estimated 30 birds, all gone on May 14 but 3 pairs (L.) prospective nesters, a gain of two pairs for this locality for several years. Arkansas kingbird, May 7 (L.); wood pewee, May 14 (D.); violet green and bank swallows, May 30 (S.); canyon wren, pair, May 9 (L.); house wren, May 7; blue-gray gnatcatcher, May 6 (David Wilson); olive-

backed thrush, May 14 (D.); ruby-crowned kinglet, April 9 (L.); warbling vireo, May 6 (D. W.).

*Warblers* — Orange-crowned, April 30 (L.); Virginia's, May 14 (D. W.); Audubon's, May 1 (S.); yellow, April 29 (D. W.), common by May 10 (L.); yellow-throat, April 30 (L.); chat, May 7 (D. W.); pileolated, May 8 (D. W.).

Ten cowbirds at Bear River Refuge, May 7 (L.); Bullock's oriole and black-headed grosbeak, 10th; lazuli bunting, April 29; Cassin's purple finch, 27th; green-tailed towhee, 25th; lark sparrow, May 2; chipping sparrow, April 9 (D. W.).

**POPULATION**—*White pelican*—as few are observed about the three refuges visited lately, it indicates that the birds are on their island rookeries in Great Salt Lake. There is little reason to believe that the pelican population is more than half of its high in 1932 when Dr. William H. Behle's studies of the rookeries placed their breeding population in excess of 10,000 and the fall concentration at Bear River marshes, estimated by William H. Madsen and Ben H. Thompson to be in excess of 30,000.

*Ducks*—Pintails were by far the most numerous migrants but from my observations the local breeding population is small. Gadwalls, cinnamon teal and shovellers are showing fine. Canvas-backs showing well as migrants and lesser scaup much better. My observations and reports confirm a yearly increase in these birds, due largely to the presence of the three created refuges on the east shore of Great Salt Lake. Long-billed curlew and willets are at least holding their own in the region and may even be on the increase. They still need nesting areas untrampled by livestock. Avocets are very abundant and stilts are only common. Not enough of the small ponds visited this year to make a creditable estimate of Wilson's phalaropes.

California gull is probably showing greater breeding increase of any of our water or larger land birds. Again this is in a large measure due to the presence of the already mentioned refuges, which provide a few artificial islands and miles of dikes suitable for nesting.

Robert G. Bee reported the first colony of California gulls to occupy the artificial islands of Farmington Bay to have numbered 125 nests in 1938-9. On May 24,

1942, I counted 1619 nests in the same area. Bear River Refuge also recorded over 2000 nests last year on their dikes and on Rock Island in Utah Lake, somewhat enlarged by the subsidence of the lake level in drought years, it has increased from a few hundred in 1932 (Behle, Sugden) to the following figures compiled by Doctors Beck and Hayward of the Brigham Young University who have been conducting a careful survey since 1940: nesting gulls—1940—22,740

1941—25,180      1942—27,850

In 1942 Dr. Beck went to war. My own visit to the island recently confirms a continued ratio of increase. No check, however, has been made on the original rookeries in Great Salt Lake since 1932 when Dr. Behle's studies placed the two larger colonies at 20,000 for Bird Island and 80,000 for Gunnison, to determine if this increase is due to a decrease in population in Great Salt Lake rookeries.

The Franklin's gull which formerly nested only at Bear River Refuge, had nests last year at Ogden Bay and this year there are over 100 birds that seem good nesting prospects and the presence of several hawks about Farmington Bay and New State Gun Club for the first time to my knowledge augurs well for another small colony of this species.

**NESTING** — Mr. Wilson estimates between 500-600 pairs of Canada geese nesting on Bear River Refuge this year and reports the first brood off May 2. On May 7 I observed eight broods in a drive around unit two. Mr. Wilson also informs me that there were no duck broods up to May 15 and this also is the case at Ogden Bay according to Mr. Marcus Nelson, superintendent, and my experience at Farmington Bay, Deckers Lake and elsewhere and while nesting is reported at all the above places, pairs continue to be a feature everywhere, especially gadwalls, cinnamon teal and shovellers.

*Hawks*—Goshawk's nest contained one egg on May 7 (Daynes).

*Sandhill Cranes*—Two pairs have remained in Utah County (increase one pair from last year).

*Shore Birds*—Killdeer, complete clutch, April 22, Farmington Bay, young observed May 7 (L.); willets, complete clutch, May 6 (S. L.); stilt, complete clutch, May 7, Farmington Bay (Tanner).

*Gulls*—California gull, nesting activi-



ties, Rock Island, from first week in May (Pfouts). Hundreds observed probably breeding on islands of Farmington Bay, May 6 (L.).

**RARITIES, IRREGULARS, ABSENT-TEES**—Three wood ducks, Farmington Bay (T. S. Terry); pair, ring-neck, May 1 (S.). Dr. A. M. Woodbury makes the only report on Bohemian waxwings since last December. He saw between 50-75 in the neighborhood of the University of Utah on April 15. We have only one other record, also by Dr. Woodbury, as late as this one, April 18, 1939. The complete absence of evening grosbeaks from this region for the entire season needs explanation.—C. W. LOCKERBIE, 223 West 9th South Street, Salt Lake City 4, Utah.

**TEXAS COASTAL REGION** April was abnormally dry, and the first half of May abnormally wet. Though the last week of



April 25-26. Deluges occurred, however, May 2, 4 and 9. Northers came April 3, 11, 16, 23 and May 4-5. The lowest temperatures for the period were 48° April 3 and 51° May 4; the highest temperatures were 91° April 27 and 88° May 14. More typically, temperatures for the entire period ranged between 60° and 80° as daily minima and maxima.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS**—The dry weather of April was favorable to many nestlings. Young mockingbirds, titmice, chickadees, Carolina wrens, bluebirds and blue jays were extraordinarily plentiful. Furthermore, the wet weather of the preceding months made an excellent set-up for many water birds, especially those that began nesting operations early. Most of the herons and egrets, king and clapper rails, mottled ducks, pied-billed grebes and Florida gallinules did well. But some of the later and more slowly maturing young water birds suffered in the May rains. Roseate spoonbills, white ibises, yellow-crowned night and Louisiana herons did much worse than last year. Later information on second nesting attempts may change this picture.

**MIGRATIONS**—The good weather of April encouraged many transients to pass quickly over the region without being extensively observed. Thus, there was only one belated report of golden plover—Galveston Island, March 28. Upland plovers were present in great numbers 20 miles northwest of Houston on April 1, but only scattered individuals appeared at a few other points during the period. The usually numerous mountain plover and buff-breasted sandpiper were not reported at all; and the three small peeps appeared in numbers nowhere in the region. On the other hand, Swainson's hawks lingered by the thousands a few miles west of Houston throughout April; and Mrs. Hagar reports an enormous migration of Franklin's gulls at Rockport on April 12-26.

The small perching birds may have been passing throughout April; but not until the northern of April 23 and the rainy weather thereafter did they begin showing up in any numbers. Magnolia warblers were more abundant in the Galveston Bay region than ever before recorded. Red-eyed vireos, redstarts, blue grosbeaks and yellow, chestnut-sided and bay-breasted warblers were more numerous than usual.

**Last dates of winter visitors**—Snow goose, May 6, blue and Canada geese, April 20—all in the northern Galveston Bay region; sharp-shinned hawk, April 27, Cooper's hawk, May 7, at Cove; red-tailed hawk, Kemah, April 27; marsh hawk, Cove, April 30; pigeon hawk, Cove, April 18; sparrow hawk, Rockport, April 30; cedar waxwing, Houston and Sheldon, April 14; myrtle warbler, Rockport, April 30, Cove, April 20; Le Conte's sparrow, Hockley, (20 miles northwest of Houston) April 23; white-throated sparrow, Hockley, April 23; Lincoln's sparrow, Rockport, May 1; swamp sparrow, Cove, April 21. The dates for the geese are three weeks late; for sharp-shinned, Cooper's, red-tailed and sparrow hawks, ten days to two weeks late; for all the others about average.

**Arrivals**—Yellow-crowned night heron, Kemah, April 2; least bittern, Kemah, April 30; stilt sandpiper, Galveston, May 2; yellow-billed cuckoo, Cove, April 19; black-billed cuckoo, Rockport, April 23; eastern kingbird, Rockport, April 2; crested flycatcher, Kemah, April 2; cat-

bird, Cove, April 19; orchard oriole, Cove, April 2; Baltimore oriole, Cove, April 19; blue grosbeak, Cove, April 20; indigo bunting, Cove, April 19. Some warbler dates follow:

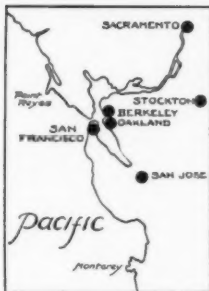
	Rockport	Galveston Bay region
Prothonotary	May 7	May 7
Golden-winged	April 23	May 2
Blue-winged		April 16
Worm-eating	April 23	April 22
Cerulean	May 5	
Nashville		April 30
Yellow	April 23	April 19
Magnolia	April 23	April 20
Blackburnian	May 2	April 26
Chestnut-sided	May 4	April 22
Bay-breasted	May 4	April 30
Ovenbird	April 24	April 17
Kentucky	April 23	April 21
Connecticut	May 5	
Yellow-breasted chat	April 23	April 9
Canada	May 4	April 30
Wilson's	April 23	May 6
Redstart	April 23	April 19

Nearly all dates here given are a week or two later than average.

**BREEDING** — Two red-shouldered hawk's nests, in Houston region, with 3 young each, May 6 and 9 (Meitzen); killdeer's nest with 4 eggs, Cove, April 18 (McKay); young jays just out of nest at Houston, April 19; mockingbird with 2 fresh eggs at Rosenberg, April 23—doubtless a second breeding, since young were already present at Sheldon on March 26 (Meitzen); young robins in nest at Houston on May 5 (Todd); cardinal young out of nest at Houston, April 22 and eggs at Kemah on April 30 (Miner); eggs and young in nests of American and snowy egrets, little blue, Louisiana, yellow-crowned and black-crowned night herons, roseate spoonbills, Mexican cormorants and snakebirds at Bay City rookery on April 30.

**ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**—Mrs. Hagar reports from Rockport, gannet, May 1, Derby flycatcher, April 24, European widgeon, April 10, Cape May warbler, May 5.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.*

**SAN FRANCISCO REGION** After a dry March, April was a little wetter and considerably colder than normal. This re-



vived the plants and prolonged the growing season into May, thus providing good feeding conditions for many kinds of birds. An extra abundance of oak-moth caterpillars at several localities resulted in concentrations of small birds. Numerous species have been mentioned as being more abundant than for years. Robins, olive-backed thrushes, Audubon's warblers, yellow warblers and black-headed grosbeaks were among the birds receiving this special mention. Not all species have responded to these apparently favorable conditions and increases have not been observed uniformly through the region. Too few reports are available to cover suitably the area.

Birds along the shore are still sufficiently accessible to provide profitable watching as the records here included will show. Eared grebe, Dumbarton Bridge, about 400 on April 14 and 17 (Allen); Brandt's cormorant, Seal Rocks near Cliff House, bringing nesting material on May 7 (Kelly); American egret, Willits, farthest north record along Redwood Highway on April 16 (Harwell); black brant, Humboldt Bay, 200 close to shore on April 17 (H.); semipalmated plover, Alameda, about 30 on April 21 (K.); black-bellied plover, San Quentin, 10 on mud flats on April 16 (H.); ruddy turnstone, Cliff House; one on May 7 (K.); black turnstone, Alameda, one on April 29 (K.); spotted sandpiper, Alameda, one on April 22 (K.); wandering tattler, Cliff House, 2 on May 7 (K.); lesser yellow-legs, Dumbarton Bridge, one on April 14 (A.); knot, Alameda, 12 on April 16 (K.); Moss Landing, one on May 6 (Williams); avocet, northern Monterey County, birds on nests on April 22 and May 6 (W.); Bonaparte's gull, Alameda, many on April 16 (K.); Caspian tern, Alameda, 2 on April 16 (K.).

Departures of wintering species vary with change in local conditions. Deviations in the dates here reported reflect more than differing acuteness of observers. Hermit thrush, Alameda, May 2

(Kelly), Berkeley, April 22 (Allen, Gwinn); ruby-crowned kinglet, Carmel Highlands, April 21 (Williams), Hastings Reservation, April 13 (Linsdale), Berkeley, April 9 (A.); pipit, Dumbarton Bridge, abundant on April 14 (A.); cedar waxwing, Carmel, flocks of 20 to 40 noted almost daily from March 30 until May 15 (W.); Audubon's warbler, Berkeley, April 28 (A.), Alameda, April 27 (K.); Townsend's warbler, Berkeley, April 28 (A.), Carmel Highlands, April 21 (W.); white-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, April 20 (L.); golden-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, May 1 (L.), Berkeley, April 27 (A.), Carmel, April 20 (W.); fox sparrow, Berkeley, April 27 (A.); Lincoln's sparrow, Hastings Reservation, April 22 (L.), Carmel April 14 (W.).

Discontinuous occurrence within species exerts important influence on time of arrival as well as the detection of it by scattered observers. Some first dates: Black swift, Carmel, 3 on April 19 (Williams); Vaux's swift, Carmel, 3 on April 28 (W.); Arkansas kingbird, El Toro Canyon, Monterey County, April 2 (Ninnis), Hastings Reservation, April 7 (Linsdale), Carmel, April 23 (W.); ash-throated flycatcher, Hastings Reservation, April 13 (L.); olive-sided flycatcher, Carmel, April 10 (Morrow); purple martin, Hastings Reservation, April 20 (L.), Carmel, April 21 (W.); olive-backed thrush, Carmel, April 28 (W.), Berkeley, April 28, later became more numerous in Alameda than for several years (Kelly); warbling vireo, Hastings Reservation, April 1 (L.), El Toro Canyon, April 2 (N.), Berkeley, April 4 (Gwinn); blue-headed vireo, Hastings Reservation, April 1 (L.); yellow warbler, Hastings Reservation, April 13 (L.), conspicuous flights of transients were detected on May 12 at Carmel (W.) and Alameda (K); Macgillivray's warbler, Berkeley, April 12 (A.); yellow-breasted chat, Hastings Reservation, May

3 to 7 (L.), Alameda, May 2-3 (K.), Berkeley, May 13 (A.), all transients; cowbird, Oakland, April 30, the latest of 9 dates of arrival in a yard in last 11 years (Brock); Bullock's oriole, Hastings Reservation, April 1 (L.), El Toro Canyon, April 2 (N.), 4 miles east of Hayward, April 6 (B.); Arizona hooded oriole, Oakland, April 15 (B.), Alameda, April 28 (K.); western tanager, El Toro Canyon, April 24 (N.); black-headed grosbeak, Hastings Reservation, April 6 (L.), Berkeley, April 9 (A.); lazuli bunting, Hastings Reservation, April 29 (L.).

Events of nesting have been less conspicuous than other kinds of observation this year, possibly because low temperatures discouraged early nesting activity. Plain titmouse, Berkeley, family of 6 young being fed by parents on May 4 (Gwinn); bush-tit, Berkeley, young out of nest on May 5 (Allen); orange-crowned warbler, Berkeley, 5 eggs in nest 4 feet up in ivy on wall of house on April 14, family of young from another nest out on May 5 (G.); Brewer's blackbird, Carmel, first young left a nest in a color-banded colony on May 10, the parents were repaired from last season and were first noted to act as a pair on February 25 (Williams).

Birds in unexpected places or of uncertain status deserve prolonged study if we want to understand reasons for their being thus conspicuous. Records here cited show only slight deviations from the normal. Yellow-billed magpie, Carmel, one on April 23 (Williams); red-breasted nuthatch, Berkeley, April 29 (Allen), May 7 and 9 (Gwinn); yellow-headed blackbird, Carmel, 4 thought to be young males on May 4 (W.); English sparrow, Hastings Reservation, a single female on April 28 (Linsdale); white-throated sparrow, Berkeley April 25 and 28 (A.).—  
JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*

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Due to increased costs of paper, printing and distribution, we find it necessary to put this Edition (containing five Season Reports, a Breeding Bird Census and a Christmas Count) on a self-supporting basis, and will, therefore, make an additional charge of \$1. per year for them. In accordance, however, with our commitments, we shall continue to send them without extra charge, until the dates of renewal of membership or subscription, to those who have already requested that the supplements be sent to them.

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